

Application No.: 10/630,914

Docket No.: 1268-198

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A document binder, comprising:

a back cover;

[[two]] left and right side covers [[,]] pivotally attached to opposing edges of [[a]] said back cover; [[,]]

wherein on the internal face of each side cover at least one rigid peg is at least one pair of pegs, each of said pegs being pivotally attached to an inner face of one of said side covers; and [[,]]

wherein the peg pivotally attached to the left side cover and each peg is located in a corresponding position for an inter engagement with the peg pivotally attached to the right a mate peg of the opposite side cover, such that [[the]] a total length of said each pair of inter engaged pegs being engaged is varying during use according to [[the]] an opening angle of the side covers.

2. (currently amended) The binder according to claim 1, wherein each of said pegs is rotatable from an engagement position, where said peg is engaged with the other peg, to an open position where said peg is each peg may be turned from facing its mate peg and being oriented at an open position substantially vertically to its attached side cover the respective side cover to which said peg is pivotally attached.

3. (currently amended) The binder according to claim 2, further comprising means for keeping each of said pegs the peg steadily in the open position.

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4. (currently amended) The binder according to claim 1, wherein a first one [[peg]] of said ~~pair of~~ pegs has a [[is]] hollow cavity and a second one of said pegs ~~the other peg~~ can be telescopically inserted inside the hollow cavity of said first peg, when the ~~opposing side covers of said folder~~ are drawn closer; [[,]] and wherein said second peg can be withdrawn from said first ~~drawn out of the other~~ peg by pulling said pegs apart when said side covers are drawn apart.

5. (currently amended) The binder according to [[Claim]] claim 1, comprising ~~wherein two pairs~~ two of said at least one pair of pegs ~~are employed~~.

6. (currently amended) The binder according to [[Claim]] claim 1, comprising ~~wherein more than two of said at least one pair~~ pairs of pegs ~~are employed~~.

7. (currently amended) The binder according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein the pegs have a circular cross section.

8. (currently amended) The binder according to [[Claim]] claim 7, wherein one of said pegs is hollow and the other peg has an [[peg's]] outside diameter which is smaller than [[the]] an inside diameter of the hollow peg.

9. (currently amended) The binder according to [[Claim]] claim 1, wherein one of said pegs is hollow and said hollow peg has an outside diameter which is smaller than 5 mm.

10. (canceled)

11. (new) A document binder, comprising:
first and second side covers pivotally attached to each other; and

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at least one pair of pegs including a first peg pivotally attached to said first side cover and a second peg attached to said second side cover;

wherein the first peg is engageable with the second peg, and, when said first and second pegs are engaged, said first and second pegs remain slidable along each other as the first and second side covers are rotated relative to each other.

12. (new) The binder according to claim 11, wherein said first peg is rotatable, relative to said first side cover, between an engagement position, where said first peg is engageable with the second peg, and an open position, where said first peg is disengaged from the second peg.

13. (new) The binder according to claim 12, further comprising a spring biasing said first peg away from the engagement position when said first peg is in the open position.

14. (new) The binder according to claim 13, wherein said spring further biases said first peg away from the open position when said first peg is in the engagement position.

15. (new) The binder according to claim 11, wherein one of said first and second pegs has an external groove in which the other of said first and second pegs is at least partially and slidably inserted when said first and second pegs are engaged.

16. (new) The binder according to claim 11, wherein one of said first and second pegs has a hollow cavity in which the other of said first and second pegs is at least partially received when said first and second pegs are engaged.

17. (new) The binder according to claim 11, wherein said second peg is pivotally attached to the second side covers;

said first and second pegs will be engaged from a disengaged state when the first and

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second pegs are rotated, relative to the first and second side covers, respectively, toward each other to assume an engagement position, and then the first and second side covers are rotated toward each other; and

said first and second pegs will be disengaged from an engaged state when the first and second side covers are rotated away from each other, and then the first and second pegs are rotated, relative to the first and second side covers, respectively, away from each other to assume an open position.

18. (new) The binder according to claim 11, wherein, when said first and second pegs are engaged, said first and second pegs can be disengaged only after said first and second side covers have been rotated away from each other by more than 180 degrees.

19. (new) The binder according to claim 11, further comprising first and second U-shaped members each having a middle portion and two legs extending from opposite ends of said middle portion, wherein

the middle portions of said first and second U-shaped members are pivotally attached to the first and second side covers, respectively;

one of the legs of the first U-shaped member defines the first peg, while the other of the legs of the first U-shaped member defines a third peg;

one of the legs of the second U-shaped member defines the second peg, while the other of the legs of the second U-shaped member defines a fourth peg engageable with the third peg of the first U-shaped member.

20. (new) The binder according to claim 19, further comprising
at least first and second clasps rotatably retaining the middle portions of said first and second U-shaped members, respectively, on the first and second side covers, respectively; and
a back cover to opposite sides thereof said first and second side covers are pivotally

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attached.